WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for provisioning a network element, comprising:

providing a custom default file and a standard default file in a network element, the custom default file comprising one or more default parameters of a same type as, but having a different value from, corresponding default parameters in the standard default file;

determining service parameters for a service based on default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

generating the service based on the service parameters.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a retrieve default command of an element manager requesting the default parameters of the custom default file; and

forwarding the one or more default parameters of the custom default file to the element manager in response to the retrieve default command.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein providing the custom default file further comprises storing the custom default file in a non-volatile memory of the network element.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising re-determining the service parameters for the service in response to a reloading event by:

re-determining the service parameters for the service based on the default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

re-generating the service based on the service parameters.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the reloading event comprises an event selected from the group consisting of a power-up sequence, a processor restart, a software download, and a software upgrade.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the custom default file and the standard default file are stored in disparate types of memory.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the standard default file is hardcoded in hardware.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the custom default file is stored as software.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the custom default file comprises default parameters of a type selected from a group consisting of threshold driven parameters and non-threshold parameters.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the threshold driven parameters comprise a set of thresholds for a plurality of communication types.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the non-threshold parameters comprise parameters associated with a category selected from a group consisting of allow and inhibit monitoring category, allow and inhibit COMM monitoring category, initialize monitoring category, set threshold T1 clock category, edit system category, enter ethernet category, edit ethernet category, enter clock category, and edit clock category.

12. A network element, comprising:

a memory comprising a custom default file and a standard default file, the custom default file comprising one or more default parameters of a same type as, but having a different value from, corresponding default parameters in the standard default file; and

a controller coupled to the memory and operable to:

determine service parameters for a service based on default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

generate the service based on the service parameters.

13. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the controller is further operable to:

receive a retrieve default command of an element manager requesting the default parameters of the custom default file; and

forward the one or more default parameters of the custom default file to the element manager in response to the retrieve default command.

14. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the memory comprises a non-volatile memory.

15. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the controller is further operable to re-determine the service parameters for the service in response to a reloading event by:

re-determining the service parameters for the service based on the default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

re-generating the service based on the service parameters.

16. The network element of Claim 15, wherein the reloading event comprises an event selected from the group consisting of a power-up sequence, a processor restart, a software download, and a software upgrade.

17. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the custom default file and the standard default file are stored in disparate types of memory.

18. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the standard default file is hardcoded in hardware.

19. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the custom default file is stored as software.

20. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the custom default file comprises default parameters of a type selected from a group consisting of threshold driven parameters and non-threshold parameters.

21. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the threshold driven parameters comprise a set of thresholds for a plurality of communication types.

22. The network element of Claim 12, wherein the non-threshold parameters comprise parameters associated with a category selected from a group consisting of allow and inhibit monitoring category, allow and inhibit COMM monitoring category, initialize monitoring category, set threshold T1 clock category, edit system category, enter ethernet category, edit ethernet category, enter clock category, and edit clock category.

23. A software for provisioning a network element, comprising:

a computer readable medium; and

software embodied in the medium and operable to:

access a custom default file and a standard default file in a network element, the custom default file comprising one or more default parameters of a same type as, but having a different value from, corresponding default parameters in the standard default file;

determine service parameters for a service based on default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

generate the service based on the service parameters.

24. The software of Claim 23, further operable to:

detect a retrieve default command of an element manager requesting the default parameters of the custom default file; and

forward the one or more default parameters of the custom default file to the element manager in response to the retrieve default command.

25. The software of Claim 23, wherein the custom default file is stored in a non-volatile memory of the network element.

26. The software of Claim 23, further operable to re-determine the service parameters for the service in response to a reloading event by:

re-determining the service parameters for the service based on the default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

re-generating the service based on the service parameters.

27. The software of Claim 26, wherein the reloading event comprises an event selected from the group consisting of a power-up sequence, a processor restart, a software download, and a software upgrade.

28. The software of Claim 23, wherein the custom default file and the standard default file are stored in disparate types of memory.

29. The software of Claim 23, wherein the standard default file is hardcoded in hardware.

30. The software of Claim 23, wherein the custom default file is stored as software.

31. The software of Claim 23, wherein the custom default file comprises default parameters of a type selected from a group consisting of threshold driven parameters and non-threshold parameters.

32. The software of Claim 23, wherein the threshold driven parameters comprise a set of thresholds for a plurality of communication types.

33. The software of Claim 23, wherein the non-threshold parameters comprise parameters associated with a category selected from a group consisting of allow and inhibit monitoring category, allow and inhibit COMM monitoring category, initialize monitoring category, set threshold T1 clock category, edit system category, enter ethernet category, edit ethernet category, enter clock category, and edit clock category.

34. A method for provisioning a network element, comprising:

means for providing a custom default file and a standard default file in a network element, the custom default file comprising one or more default parameters of a same type as, but having a different value from, corresponding default parameters in the standard default file;

means for determining service parameters for a service based on default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file; and

means for generating the service based on the service parameters.

35. A network element, comprising:

at least one memory comprising a custom default file and a standard default file, the custom default file and the standard default file stored in disparate types of memory, the at least one memory comprising a non-volatile memory, the custom default file stored as software in the non-volatile memory, the standard default file hardcoded in hardware, the custom default file comprising one or more default parameters of a same type as, but having a different value from, corresponding default parameters in the standard default file, the custom default file comprising default parameters of a type selected from a group consisting of threshold driven parameters and non-threshold parameters, the threshold driven parameters comprising a set of thresholds for a plurality of communication types, the non-threshold parameters comprising parameters associated with a category selected from a group consisting of allow and inhibit monitoring category, allow and inhibit COMM monitoring category, initialize monitoring category, set threshold T1 clock category, edit system category, enter ethernet category, edit ethernet category, enter clock category, and edit clock category; and

a controller coupled to the memory and operable to:

determine service parameters for a service based on default parameters of the standard default file as modified by overriding default parameters of the custom default file;

generate the service based on the service parameters;

receive a retrieve default command of an element manager requesting the default parameters of the custom default file; and

forward the one or more default parameters of the custom default file to the element manager in response to the retrieve default command.